

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1-6 (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method for performing a biopsy:  
removing tissue from a vascular tissue site; and  
positioning a pledget of absorbable sponge material adjacent the vascular tissue site  
wherein the absorbable sponge material includes a contrasting agent substantially dispersed  
throughout ~~said pledget~~ said absorbable sponge material.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the  
group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold, tungsten, and platinum and  
mixtures thereof.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the  
group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate sodium, iodomide sodium, and meglumine  
and mixtures thereof.
- 12-13 (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising ~~a step of~~ locating  
the position of the vascular tissue site by detecting the contrasting agent.

16. (Currently Amended) The method for performing a biopsy comprising:

removing tissue from a vascular site; and

positioning a pledget of absorbable sponge material substantially at the vascular site

wherein the absorbable sponge material includes a contrast agent ~~preloaded therein~~ substantially dispersed throughout said absorbable sponge material prior to hydration.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate ~~sodium~~ sodium, iodomide sodium, and maglemine and mixtures thereof.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the contrasting agent is substantially dispersed throughout the absorbable sponge material.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of marking a biopsy site ~~comprising the steps of:~~

providing an absorbable sponge material containing a contrast agent, said contrast agent substantially dispersed throughout said absorbable sponge material;

placing the sponge material containing the contrast agent into a delivery device;

performing a biopsy procedure at a biopsy site; and

delivering the sponge material containing contrast agent to the biopsy site to mark the biopsy site.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the contrasting agent is water insoluble.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of tantalum, tantalum oxide, barium sulfate, gold, tungsten, and platinum and mixtures thereof.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the contrasting agent is water soluble.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the contrasting agent is selected from the group consisting of metrizamide, iopamidol, iothalamate sodium, iodamide sodium, and meglumine and mixtures thereof.

27. (Cancelled)